

**§ 250.140 Marine operations.**

(a) *General*—(1) Marine operations means all activities necessary for the transportation and installation of a platform from the time it enters the marine environment until it is fixed in place at its final destination. Marine operations generally include such activities as follows:

- (i) Lifting and mooring,
- (ii) Loadout or initial flotation,
- (iii) Fabrication afloat,
- (iv) Towing,
- (v) Launching and uprighting,
- (vi) Submergence,
- (vii) Pile installation, and
- (viii) Final field erection.

(2) The requirements of this section apply to all platforms covered by this subpart, regardless of structural type or material of construction.

(b) *Objective*. The structural strength and integrity of a platform shall not be reduced or otherwise jeopardized by the performance of the activities required to install the platform on site. The type and magnitude of loads and load combinations to which a platform will be exposed during marine operations shall be the subject of an analysis pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section, except where the use of proven and well-controlled methods of fabrication and installation are proposed and justified. Sufficient equipment shall be provided to ensure installation of the platform in a safe and well-controlled manner.

(c) *Analysis*. (1) Analyses shall be performed to determine the type and magnitude of the loads and load combinations to which the platform will be exposed during the performance of marine operations.

(2) Analyses shall be performed to ensure that the structural design is sufficient to withstand the type and magnitude of the loads and load combinations determined, in accordance with paragraph (c)(1) of this section, without loss or degradation of structural integrity.

(3) Analyses shall be performed to ensure that the platform or its means of support has sufficient hydrostatic stability and reserve buoyancy to allow for successful execution of all phases of marine operations.

**§ 250.141 Inspection during construction.**

(a) *General*—(1) *Coverage*. All pile-supported and gravity platforms covered by this subpart shall be inspected during the construction phase. Additional requirements for steel pile-supported platforms are contained in paragraph (b) of this section, and additional requirements pertaining to concrete-gravity platforms are contained in paragraph (c) of this section. The phases of construction subject to inspection include material manufacture, fabrication, loadout, transportation, positioning, installation, and final field erection.

(2) *Objective*. Inspections during construction are to verify that the platform is constructed in accordance with the approved construction plan. Any unusual or innovative application of materials or methods of construction not adequately covered by the requirements of this section shall receive special attention during compliance inspections relevant to its effect on the integrity of the platform.

(3) *Remedial action*. If construction inspection results reveal that materials, procedures, or workmanship deviate significantly from the approved design, remedial action shall be taken.

(4) *Identification of materials*. The origin of materials used in the platform and the results of relevant material tests for all significant structural materials shall be retained and made readily available for inspection by MMS representatives during all stages of construction. Records shall be kept of the locations throughout the platform of the various heat numbers for such materials.

(b) *Steel pile-supported platforms*—(1) *Scope*. Inspections of steel pile-supported platforms shall address the following topics, as appropriate:

- (i) Material quality and forming,
- (ii) Welder and welding procedure qualifications,
- (iii) Weld inspection,
- (iv) Tolerances and alignments, and
- (v) Corrosion-control systems.

(2) *Material quality and forming*. Inspection shall verify that all materials employed are of good quality and suitable for their intended service as specified in the approved design. Inspection